

# JOHANNA SILLANPAA *Make of Me*



**About Johanna** For every style of music that Johanna Sillanpaa explores, be it jazz, groove, R&B or soul, there's a vibrant colour in her voice to match. She can play it slow and solemn, smooth and silky, as strong and rousing as cognac's burn, or as soft and tender as a lingering kiss.

Sillanpaa's confidence in her own eclectic sound - and in her own skin - has come with time. "It's something I've grown into," says the Swedish expat. "I've always had a certain amount of flexibility to my voice, but it feels like there's an agility to my voice now, and I'm really enjoying it!"

This fresh zeal is unmistakable on her third solo record, *The Make of Me*. Her perseverance has been stoked by the "comfort of working in

such a small musical family," referring to guitarist Aaron Young, bassist Kodi Hutchinson, pianist Chris Andrew and percussionist Tyler Hornby - whom she's been collaborating and crafting music with since 2004. Sillanpaa and her acoustic soul ensemble have played everywhere from the intimate jazz joints in their small-but-tight musical community of Calgary to the Montréal Jazz Festival's 50,000-plus crowds. Beyond filling venues in Canada and abroad, Sillanpaa's sound has also drawn its fair share of accolades and award nominations, including a Western Canadian Music Award nod in the Urban music category. At the 2010 Canadian Smooth Jazz Awards, she was nominated for Best Female Vocalist and Group/Duo of the Year with Sillan & Young.



**Make of Me** There's no mistaking that highly acclaimed Swedish-born soulful artist Johanna Sillanpaa has really come into her own with her latest diverse and introspective third solo album *Make Of Me*. The album envelops you immediately and showcases her rich, intoxicating vocals. From the sunny and uplifting *Beautiful Love* to the sweet, passionate promise of *Always*, her latest compilation of songs is sure to captivate audiences everywhere and shes excited to bring these tracks to the stage.

"I've always loved authentic sounds and I truly honor real musicianship. This time around I'd like to think that the songs have more substance, there are some that are personal, some that are fiction and some that are borrowed," says Johanna.

with guest Brad Turner (trumpet)

**Performance Highlights** Johanna has travelled extensively across North America and Europe playing venues ranging in size from intimate concerts to major festival stages.

#### Some recent performance highlights:

- Maria Schneider & Calgary Jazz Orchestra (Jan. 2012)
- European Tour (Sweden/Poland, Summer 2011)
- Trans Canada Alberta Music Series (Calgary, Mar. 2011)
- Sonoma Wine Showcase Festival (Phoenix, AZ, Nov. 2010)
- Jazzkomm Official Showcase (Berlin, Germany, Sep. 2010)
- Uptown Waterloo Jazz Festival (Waterloo, ON, Jul. 2010)
- Canadian Smooth Jazz Awards (Toronto, ON., Apr. 2010)
- Southern U.S. Tour (Texas/Oklahoma, Mar. 2010)
- Gibson Guitar Room, SXSW (Austin, TX, Mar. 2010)
- Alberta House - 2010 Olympics (Vancouver, BC, Feb. 2010)
- U.S. Radio Tour (California/Arizona, Jun. 2009)
- Canadian Jazz Festival Tour (Canada-wide, June-July 2008)
- Montreal Jazz Festival (Montreal, QC, 2008)
- Junofest - Official Showcase (Calgary, AB, 2008)
- Western Canadian Music Awards (Edmonton, AB, 2008)
- Stockholm Trad Jazz Festival (Sweden 2008)
- Alberta Arts Day with the Calgary Philharmonic (2008)

#### What People Are Saying!

"[Johanna] is hands down the most talented and creative performer that I've dealt with in the last 5 years. She comes to the music from a fresh new angle. It's exciting, original and I get response every time I play her music. Now that's rare."

- John Beaudin, Program Director, [www.smoothjazznow.com](http://www.smoothjazznow.com)

"[Johanna Sillanpaa] can more than hold her own with any of the great R&B / soul singers"

-Jazz Review.com

"Johanna favors a style-free way of music, combining the best from all worlds,[creating] a handful of small melodic pearls with a nuance of Nordic coolness..."

-Joerg Schmitt, Music critic SONIC SOUL, DE

"a bluesy Erykah Badu meets Billie Holiday groove... Johanna's voice is silky, classy and sophisticated."

-Steve Quirk, Smooth FM, United Kingdom

"Johanna's CD 'Good Life' feels fresh and new and it's on a very high musical level"

-Nils Landgren, "Funk Unit", Sweden

"Fabulous! She was lovely and our guests loved her!"

- Patti Brooks, Executive Director, Uptown Waterloo Jazz Festival



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## The Band



**Johanna Sillanpaa (Vocals)** An alumnus of the Grant MacEwan music program in Edmonton, Alberta, Johanna has worked tirelessly to develop the strong, sultry and introspective voice that could be described as one part Erykah Badu and one part Norah Jones. Johanna knows exactly how to craft the right sound and the right lyric at just the right time, resulting in pure magic. Her 2008 solo album *Good Life* was nominated for a Western Canadian Music Award, which was an incredible honour for the girl from Boras, Sweden.



**Aaron Young (Guitar/Vocals)** By the time Aaron Young was 23 years old, he had already produced, arranged and performed on over 15 albums. It was clear that music was going to be his future. With eclectic influences ranging from Randy Rhodes and Ricky Skaggs to Jim Croce and Ozzy Osborne,

Aaron went on to tour the world with the world-beat stage show *Barrage* for 5 years. Aaron is proud to lend his immense dedication and raw instincts to Johanna Sillanpaa. He's even prouder to catch the odd glimpse of himself on PBS, CBC, MTV and the BBC. Not bad for an oddball kid from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.



**Chris Andrew (Keyboards)** Performer. Recording artist. Composer. Pianist. Teacher. As one of Canada's finest pianists, Chris brings ingenuity, highly acclaimed technical abilities and passionate performances to the musical table. Chris has graced the stage with artists such as Joshua Redman, Paquito D'Rivera, Brad Turner, and Paul Brandt. Andrew is also a member of Bomba! and the Hutchinson Andrew Trio, (2006 WCMA Nominees). Chris was recently given the 2008 CBC Galaxie Rising Star Award from the National Jazz Awards.



**Tyler Hornby (Drums)** He's versatile, well traveled and just a really great drummer. It's no wonder Tyler Hornby is in such high demand. To date, Tyler has performed with such artists as Bob Mintzer, Frank Mantooth, Alain Caron, Mike Murley, and Tommy Banks. His taste, control and rhythmic finesse have

led him on an exciting musical journey of North America, South America, Europe, and back to Calgary where he performs with Johanna Sillanpaa and The Tyler Hornby Quartet. All this while teaching at the jazz program at Mount Royal University.



**Kodi Hutchinson (Electric/Double Bass)**

Creative and introspective and just a happy-go-lucky guy, Kodi has established himself as one of the top call bassists in Western Canada, getting the opportunity to perform with artists like PJ Perry, Cara Matthews, ClanTerra, and the Destino Tenors

along the way. Kodi is a true artist that finds musical inspiration in the simple things, and channels this into his work with Johanna Sillanpaa, the Hutchinson Andrew Trio, and Karl Schwonik.



## Discography



Johanna Sillanpaa  
*Good Life* (2008)



Johanna Sillanpaa  
*One Wish* (2007)



Sillan & Young  
*Under My Feet* (2009)



Sillan & Young  
*Better Thing* (2004)

## Contact

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distributed in Canada by:

